

Gatewood W. Dunston  
Collection Relating to William  
Surrey Hart

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Gladys G. MacKenzie



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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## Collection Summary

Title: Gatewood W. Dunston Collection Relating to William Surrey Hart

Span Dates: 1914-1955

ID No.: MSS25171

Creator: Dunston, Gatewood W.

Extent: 800 items; 3 containers; 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Correspondence, synopses of stories and movie scripts, publicity material, notes, and clippings relating chiefly to William Surrey Hart's career as a star of silent western films, Hart's lawsuit against United Artists, and the efforts of Hart's son to contest his father's will.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Dunston, Gatewood W.

Hart, William Surrey, 1864-1946. Gatewood W. Dunston collection relating to William Surrey Hart (1914-1955)

### Organizations

United Artists Corporation.

### Subjects

Motion picture actors and actresses.

Motion picture industry--Public relations.

Motion picture plays.

Western films.

### Occupations

Collectors.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The Gatewood W. Dunston Collection Relating to William Surrey Hart (1874-1946), stage and screen actor, director and author, were received by the Library of Congress as a bequest of Dunston in 1957.

### Processing History

The collection was arranged and described in 1957. The finding aid was revised in 1975 and 2010.

### Additional Guides

The Gatewood W. Dunston Collection Relating to William Surrey Hart is described in the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin*, vol. 16, no. 22 (3 June 1957), and in the Library's *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, vol. 15, no. 3 (May 1958).

## Transfers

Photographs and posters have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Gatewood W. Dunston Collection Relating to William Surrey Hart.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Gatewood W. Dunston and William Surrey Hart is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Gatewood W. Dunston are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Gatewood W. Dunston Collection Relating to William Surrey Hart, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

# Biographical Note

## William Surrey Hart

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
circa 1874	Born, Newburgh, N.Y.
1890-1914	As an actor, barnstormed the country playing opposite leading stars such as Julia Arthur and Modjeska, later finding success in western plays
1914	Made first screen appearance in <i>Jim Cameron's Wife</i> , a California production by his friend, Thomas H. Ince
1917-1926	Became a world-famous film star and director of many movies in which he played the leading roles
1921	Married Winifred Westover, actress and his leading lady in several films
1926-1940	Claimed that he was kept out of movies by Joseph Schenck, head of United Artists Corp., and other businessmen in the movies
1929	Published <i>My Life East and West</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1940	Was awarded \$375,000 by the New York Supreme Court in suit against United Artists for selling <i>Tumbleweeds</i> in violation of contract
1946, June 23	Died, Hollywood, Calif.

# Scope and Content Note

The Gatewood W. Dunston Collection Relating to William Surrey Hart material was collected by Gatewood W. Dunston, of Norfolk, Virginia, over a period of nearly twenty years. It includes correspondence, 1929-1955, synopses of Hart's stories and movie scripts, 1914-1918, publicity

material, notes on films, and clippings. The material relates chiefly to Hart's career as a pioneer star in silent western films.

The correspondence includes letters from Hart to Dunston discussing Hart's films and movie career and letters about Hart written by others. There are also clippings regarding the law suit which Hart won against United Artists in the New York Supreme Court in 1940, and material concerning the efforts of Hart's son to contest his father's will, 1946-1950.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Synopses and scripts, 1914-1918
BOX 1	“The Scourge of the Desert” (no. 326)
BOX 1	“The Sheriff’s Streak of Yellow” (no. 341)
BOX 1	“Pinto Ben” (no. 408)
BOX 1	“A Knight of the Trails” (no. 431)
BOX 1	“The Primal Lure” (no. 459)
BOX 1	“The Captive God” (no. 461)
BOX 1	“Apostle of Vengeance” (no. 462)
BOX 1	“The Dawn Maker” (no. 472)
BOX 1	“The Return of Draw Egan” (no. 477)
BOX 1	“The Patriot” (no. 480)
BOX 1	“The Devil’s Double” (no. 485)
BOX 1	“Truthful Tulliver” (no. 492)
BOX 1	“The Gunfighter” (no. 500)
BOX 1	“The Square Deal Man or Jack O’Diamonds” (no. 504)
BOX 1	“The Desert Man” (no. 509)
BOX 1	“Wolf Lowry” (no. 514)
BOX 1	“On the Level Leigh or Cold Deck” (no. 529)
BOX 1	“His Life at Stake or the Conversion of Frosty Blake” (no. 611)
BOX 1	“Bad Buck of Santa Ynez” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“Keno Bates, Liar” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“Jim Cameron’s Wife” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“The Bargain” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“The Disciple” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“Hell’s Hinges” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“On the Night Stage” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“The Aryan” unnumbered
BOX 1	“His Hour of Manhood” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“The Roughneck” (unnumbered)
BOX 1	“Square Deal Sanderson” (unnumbered)
BOX 2	Correspondence and printed matter
BOX 2	Correspondence
BOX 2	Hart, William Surrey to Gatewood W. Dunston, 1929-1955
BOX 2	Mitchell, George J. to Gatewood W. Dunston, 1954-1955
BOX 2	Miscellaneous, 1930-1955
BOX 2	Clippings, articles, and publicity material (3 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellany
BOX 3	Notebook
BOX 3	Notes